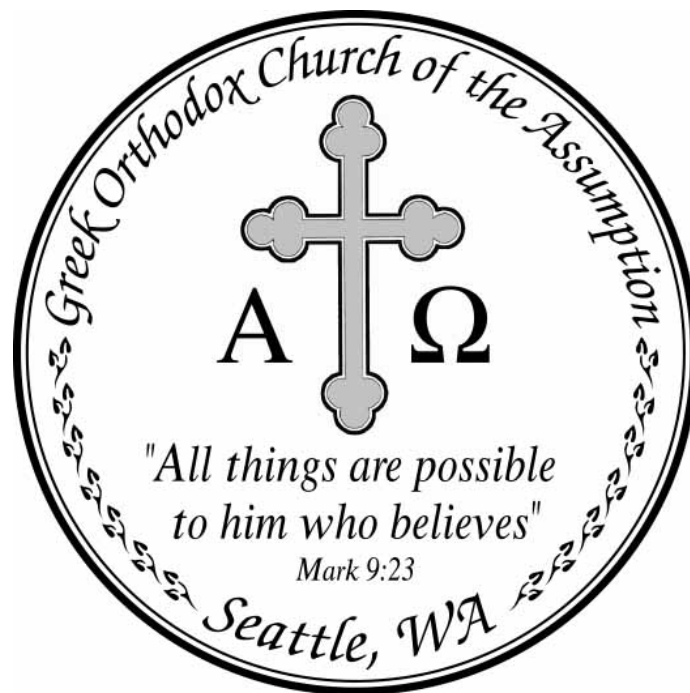


# ***STUDIES IN FAITH***

**Father Dean W. Kouldukis**



# Studies in the Faith

Intended to be a survey course, "Studies in the Faith" will give the participant a foundational understanding of the Orthodox Christian Faith, its belief, worship, and practices. The class is twenty-four weeks in duration, and will begin on Monday evening, September 15th. The class will meet from 7:00-8:00 pm in the upstairs hall.

**This class is mandatory for those individuals who wish to become Orthodox Christians.**

To those who are already Orthodox, this course will provide you with an enriched understanding of your faith.

And to our guests, we welcome you. Please feel free to attend whichever class, or combination of classes interests you most.

What follows is a list of the texts to be used and schedule for the class. The reading assignments from the texts below and from various articles will be distributed in class. The texts may be purchased from the bookstore. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

Texts to be used in class:

1. The Holy Bible, including the Old Testament and deuterocanonical books (Apocrypha). The Revised Standard Version or the New Revised Standard is recommended.
2. Introducing the Orthodox Church, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris
3. The Orthodox Church, by Bishop Kallistos Ware

Other recommended texts:

1. Contemporary Moral Issues, by Fr. Stanley Harakas
2. Making God Real In The Orthodox Christian Home, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris
3. Beginning to Pray, by Archbishop Anthony Bloom
4. The Divine Liturgy Service Book

# Syllabus

- 1<sup>st</sup> Session September 15th  
History of the Church (Part 1)  
From 33 AD – 325 AD  
The Beginnings: The spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to the nations  
The Early Martyrs, The Administrative Structure of the Church, The Development of the Administrative Structure of the Church, The Development of the Liturgical Life of the Church.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Session September 22nd  
History of the Church (Part 2)  
Byzantium, 325 AD – 850 AD  
The Ecumenical Councils, The Nicene Creed, The Fathers of the Church
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Session September 29th  
History of the Church (Part 3)  
The Church in Captivity, Moscow: The Third Rome, The Ancient Patriarchates Today
- 4<sup>th</sup> Session October 6th  
The Trinity, The Person of Jesus  
The Biblical foundation  
The historical foundation
- 5<sup>th</sup> Session October 13th  
Holy Tradition and the Bible
- 6<sup>th</sup> Session October 20th  
Theosis (Part 1)  
An Orthodox Perspective on Spiritual Growth
- 7<sup>th</sup> Session October 27th  
Theosis (Part 2)  
Salvation  
Life After Death
- 8<sup>th</sup> Session November 3rd  
The Sacramental Life of the Church (Part 1)  
Prayer as an expression of Sacrament  
An Orthodox perspective on Sacrament
- 9<sup>th</sup> Session November 10th  
The Sacramental life of the Church (Part 2)  
A survey (from a Biblical and theological foundation) of the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and Confession

10<sup>th</sup> Session November 17th  
The Sacramental life of the Church (Part 3)  
A survey (from a Biblical and theological foundation) of the Sacraments of Ordination,  
Marriage, and Holy Unction

11<sup>th</sup> Session November 24th  
The Divine Liturgy (Part 1)  
The Liturgy of the Catechumens  
The Liturgy of the Eucharist

12<sup>th</sup> Session December 1st  
The Divine Liturgy (Part 2)  
The Historical Development of the Liturgy

13<sup>th</sup> Session December 8th  
The Saints of the Church

14<sup>th</sup> Session December 15th  
The Interior of the Church  
Orthodox theology in Church architecture and structure

*Christmas break. Class will not meet on December 22, 29, or on January 5.*

15<sup>th</sup> Session January 12th  
Iconography  
The Church Triumphant vs. The Church Militant

16<sup>th</sup> Session January 26th  
The Church Calendar (Part 1)  
The measurement of time in the Orthodox Church of the Assumption  
The daily and weekly calendars of the Church  
The twelve major feasts in the Orthodox Church

*Class will not meet on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.*

17<sup>th</sup> Session February 9th  
The Church Calendar (Part 2)  
The moveable calendar of the Church  
The fasting calendar of the Church  
The calculation of the day of Pascha (Easter in Orthodoxy)  
The New vs. the Old Calendar

18<sup>th</sup> Session February 23rd  
The Church Calendar (Part 3)  
Holy Week and the Journey to Pascha (Easter)

19<sup>th</sup> Session March 2nd

Contemporary Moral Issues

The Orthodox position on contemporary moral issues such as contraception, abortion, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, homosexuality, capital punishment, euthanasia, and more. A brief discussion on each.

20<sup>th</sup> Session March 9th

Living an Orthodox Lifestyle (Part 1)

Beginning to Pray

On fasting, prayer and almsgiving

21<sup>st</sup> Session March 16th

Living an Orthodox Lifestyle (Part 2)

Living the Liturgical life of the Church

22<sup>nd</sup> Session March 23rd

The Problem of Orthodox Fundamentalism

23<sup>rd</sup> Session March 30th

The role of monasticism in the Orthodox Church

24<sup>th</sup> Session April 6th

The Eastern and Western Churches

The differences between Eastern Orthodoxy and Western Catholicism and Protestantism

The relationship of the Orthodox Church with the churches of the West

The Orthodox Church and the World Council of Churches

*April 12<sup>th</sup> – April 18<sup>th</sup>: Holy Week*

*April 19<sup>th</sup>: Pascha*

*If necessary, make up sessions will be held on the last Tuesday of each month. No make up session will be held in December.*

We welcome all visitors who may wish to come and experience an Orthodox Christian Liturgy. For those who wish to become Orthodox Christians, **it is important for you to regularly attend Church on Sundays while taking this class.** The schedule of worship services is as follows:

Saturday evenings: Great Vespers - 6:30 pm

Sunday mornings: Orthros - 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am